Raising of local battalions in Jammu and Kashmir

2866. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering raising of local battalions in Jammu and Kashmir on the pattern of the North-East to help the unemployed rural youths to earn their livelihood; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Raising of local battalions of police falls within the purview of the State Government. Accordingly, no such proposal is under the consideration of the Central Government.

Dialogue to resolve Kashmir issue

2867. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interlocutor appointed by the Central Government to start the process of dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir has started his work with the leaders of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether dialogue with separatist leaders including the Hurriyat Conference has also been permitted and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the National Conference leaders including the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir would also be invited for the talks and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the net outcome of the talks is likely to be made public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Shri N.N. Vohra who has been appointed as the Government of India's representative to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organisations and concerned individuals in the State of J&K made a two day visit to J&K on 5th and 6th March, 2003 where he had preliminary meetings with Constitutional figures in the State *i.e.* Governor, Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Speaker of Legislative